

We claim:

1. A process for preparing an aqueous alkali metal acrylate solution by distillatively removing acrylic acid from an acrylic acid-containing mixture and generating an aqueous alkali metal acrylate solution from the distillatively removed acrylic acid and an aqueous solution of a basic alkali metal salt, which comprises
 - a) feeding the acrylic acid-containing mixture to a distillation apparatus,
 - b) carrying out the removal of the acrylic acid from the acrylic acid-containing mixture in the distillation apparatus above the feed point and
 - c) generating the aqueous alkali metal acrylate solution in such a manner that the acrylic acid removed in the distillation apparatus is taken up immediately from the gas phase into an aqueous solution of an alkali metal hydroxide, an alkali metal carbonate and/or an alkali metal hydrogencarbonate.
2. The use of an aqueous alkali metal acrylate solution which has been prepared by a process as claimed in claim 1 for preparing a polyacrylate.
3. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the acrylic acid removed in the distillation apparatus is taken up immediately from the gas phase into an aqueous solution of an alkali metal hydroxide, an alkali metal carbonate and/or an alkali metal hydrogencarbonate in a polymerization apparatus.

Preparation of an aqueous alkali metal acrylate solution

Abstract

A process prepares an aqueous alkali metal acrylate solution by distillatively removing acrylic acid from a mixture as vapors and taking up the vapors immediately from the gas phase into an aqueous alkali solution.